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The oil fields of Cuba, by E. L. De Golyer, New York, N. Y.

The relations of former shore lines to oil accumulation, by A. W. McCoy, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

The bend formation as a source of oil in north-west Texas, by W. E. Wrather, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Contributions to the stratigraphy of the red beds, by D. W. O'Hern, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Papers were read covering points of geologic interest brought out by the past year's development as follows: the Gulf Coast, by Alexander Deussen, Houston, Texas; Kansas, by R. L. Moore, Lawrence, Kansas; Kentucky, by J. W. Pemberton, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Northwest Louisiana, by Mowery Bates, Tulsa, Okla.

Officers elected for the current year were: *President*, Alexander Deussen, Houston, Texas; *Vice-president*, Dr. I. C. White, Morgantown, West Va.; *Secretary-Treasurer*, W. E. Wrather, Wichita Falls, Texas; and *Editor*, Charles H. Taylor, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The next meeting of the association will be held in Houston, Texas, the exact date to be announced later.

#### THE RESEARCH INFORMATION COMMITTEE

By joint action the Secretaries of War and Navy, with the approval of the Council of National Defense, have authorized and approved the organization, through the National Research Council, of a Research Information Committee in Washington with branch committees in Paris and London, which are intended to work in close cooperation with the officers of the Military and Naval Intelligence, and whose function shall be the securing, classifying and disseminating of scientific technical and industrial research information, especially relating to war problems, and the interchange of such information between the allies in Europe and the United States.

The Washington committee consists of

(a) A civilian member, representing the National Research Council; Dr. S. W. Stratton, chairman.

(b) The chief, Military Intelligence Section.

(c) The Director of Naval Intelligence.

The initial organization of the committee in London is

(a) The scientific attaché representing the Research Information Committee; Dr. H. A. Bumstead, attaché.

(b) The military attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

(c) The naval attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

The initial organization of the committee in Paris is

(a) The scientific attaché representing the Research Information Committee, Dr. W. F. Durand, attaché.

(b) The military attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

(c) The naval attaché, or an officer deputed to act for him.

The chief functions of the foreign committees thus organized are intended to be as follows:

(a) The development of contact with all important research laboratories or agencies, governmental or private; the compilation of problems and subjects under investigation; and the collection and compilation of the results attained.

(b) The classification, organization and preparation of such information for transmission to the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(c) The maintenance of continuous contact with the work of the officers of military and naval attachés in order that all duplication of work or crossing of effort may be avoided, with the consequent waste of time and energy and the confusion resulting from crossed or duplicated effort.

(d) To serve as an immediate auxiliary to the offices of the military and naval attachés in the collection, analysis and compilation of scientific, technical and industrial research information.

(e) To serve as an agency at the immediate service of the commander-in-chief of the military or naval forces in Europe for the collection and analysis of scientific and technical research information, and as an auxiliary to such direct military and naval agencies as may be in use for the purpose.

(f) To serve as centers of distribution to the

American Expeditionary Forces in France and to the American naval forces in European waters of scientific and technical research information, originating in the United States and transmitted through the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(g) To serve as centers of distribution to our allies in Europe of scientific, technical and industrial research information originating in the United States and transmitted through the Research Information Committee in Washington.

(h) The maintenance of the necessary contact between the offices in Paris and London in order that provision may be made for the direct and prompt interchange of important scientific and technical information.

(i) To aid research workers or collectors of scientific, technical and industrial information from the United States, when properly accredited from the Research Information Committee in Washington, in best achieving their several and particular purposes.

The headquarters of the Research Information Committee in Washington is in the offices of the National Research Council, 1023 Sixteenth Street; the branch committees are located at the American Embassies in London and Paris.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Geological Society of London has awarded to Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, its Wollaston Medal, in recognition of his contributions to Cambrian paleontology. The presentation of the medal was made at a meeting of the society in London on February 15, the secretary of the American Embassy receiving the medal in Dr. Walcott's behalf. The list of eighty-seven men of science who have received this medal since its establishment in 1831 contains the names of five other Americans, Louis Agassiz, James Hall, James D. Dana, Grove Karl Gilbert and W. B. Scott.

PROFESSOR A. N. TALBOT, of the University of Illinois, president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, is head of a board to advise on construction for the War Department,

involving, it is said, the sum of over a billion dollars.

MAJOR FRED A. ALBEE has been placed in charge of the hospital to be situated at Islam, N. J. This hospital will consist of seven buildings with fifteen hundred beds and will be used for the restoration of crippled soldiers.

PROFESSOR D. M. FOLSOM, of the department of mineralogy of Stanford University, has been appointed fuel oil administrator for the western states. His jurisdiction will cover Idaho, Montana, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, California and Alaska.

MAJOR SIMON FLEXNER, of the Rockefeller Institute, is conducting at Fort Sheridan, Ill., in conjunction with Major George Draper, an investigation in connection with the prevention of meningitis. Major Edward K. Dunham, of New York City, will visit Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va., for investigation in connection with the treatment of meningitis carriers.

PROFESSOR GEORGE F. SEVER, formerly professor of electrical engineering and acting dean of the faculty of applied science in Columbia University, has been commissioned a major in the Engineers' Officers Reserve Corps, and is now stationed in Washington. He has closed his engineering office in New York City.

CAPTAIN R. J. ANDERSON, of the Geneva Experiment Station, and Lieutenants W. A. Perlzweig, Henry R. Cates and Charles N. Frey, are making a nutritional survey of the army camps situated in the southern states. The survey is part of the work at present conducted by the Surgeon General's Office to determine the character of the food supplied to the American soldiers.

MAJOR J. F. CORBETT has been sent from the Rockefeller Institute to Canada to study the Canadian treatment of returning soldiers suffering from peripheral nerve injuries.

It is announced that a medical board, consisting of Brigadier General Charles Richard and Major Frank Billings, has been appointed to revise the Manual of Instructions for Medical Advisory Boards working under the Selective Service Law.